

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 29-30, 2015**

Prepared on January 5, 2015

**ITEM NUMBER: 18**

**SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

**STAFF CONTACT: Kenneth A. Harris Jr. 805/549-3140 or [kharris@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kharris@waterboards.ca.gov)**

This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS**

[Phil Hammer 805/549-3882]

The tables on the following pages list applications received and certifications issued from September 27, 2014 – December 11, 2014

**401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received September 27, 2014 – December 11, 2014**

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Pro-posed Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
Troesh Materials, Inc. - Steven M. Troesh	10/1/2014	Diamond Rock Sand and Gravel Mine	To continue the operation of a sand and gravel mine.	Cuyama Valley	Santa Barbara	Cuyama River	28.57 acres	Under Staff Review
Monterey County DPW - Doug Poochigian	10/10/2014	Peach Tree Road at Pancho Rico Creek Bridge Replacement	To replace existing bridge with new 2-lane bridge on the same alignment	Slack Canyon	Monterey	Pancho Rico Creek	0.51 acre	Under Staff Review
Caltrans - Randy Lavack	10/16/2014	Santa Margarita Creek Bank Stabilization	To prevent loss of the US 101 roadway and maintain a safe travel way.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Santa Margarita Creek	0.078 acre	Under Staff Review
Comstock Homes - Scott Stone	10/17/2014	Village at Los Carneros	To construct 465 residential units at Village at Los Carneros.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	Tecolotito Creek	0.54 acre	Under Staff Review
California Army National Guard - Kent Harrison	10/16/2014	Camp Roberts Drainage Crossing Improvement Project	To improve multiple ephemeral channel crossings to allow for safe year-round access to training land via established trails at Camp Roberts.	Camp Roberts	San Luis Obispo	Unnamed tributaries to Nacimiento River	0.019 acre	Incomplete Application

**401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received September 27, 2014 – December 11, 2014**

Applicant	Date Received	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	County	Receiving Water	Proposed Total Impact <sup>1</sup>	Status
Monterey County Resource Management Agency - Carl Holm	10/29/2014	Carmel River Lagoon Interim Sandbar Management	To establish specific criteria for emergency breaching of the Carmel River Lagoon sandbar during the 2014 Winter season until a long term management strategy is implemented.	Carmel	Monterey	Pacific Ocean	0.41 acre	Under Staff Review
Department of the Navy- Oscar Antillon	11/7/2014	Wetland Recovery at Naval Industrial Reserve, Santa Cruz	To restore or maintain quality habitat for native wildlife and discourage unnatural disturbance in enhancement areas.	Davenport	Santa Cruz	Unnamed tributary to Boyer Creek	0.27 acre	Under Staff Review
Moss Landing Harbor District - Linda G. McIntyre	11/10/2014	Moss Landing Tsunami Shore Protection Repair	To repair existing riprap revetments damaged by the tsunami in April 2011	Moss Landing	Monterey	Moss Landing Harbor	0.19 acre	Under Staff Review
City of San Luis Obispo - Manuel Guzman	11/17/2014	Prefumo Creek Sediment Removal	To restore conveyance capacity to streams within the City in accordance to the City's Waterway Management Plan.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	Prefumo Creek	0.772 acre	Under Staff Review
City of San Luis Obispo - Manuel Guzman	11/17/2014	San Luis Obispo Creek Sediment Removal	To restore conveyance capacity to streams within the City in accordance to the City's Waterway Management Plan.	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo Creek	0.99 acre	Under Staff Review
Federal Highway Administration-Central Federal Lands Highway Division - Nathan Allen	11/18/2014	Guidotti Bridge Replacement Project	To replace the existing bridge along Guidotti Road within the Fort Ord National Monument.	Salinas	Monterey	El Toro Creek	0.03 acre	Under Staff Review
City of Santa Cruz Water Department - Kevin Crossley	11/19/2014	North Coast System Rehabilitation Project - Phase 3	To replace the existing water main pipeline that is in disrepair.	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Little Baldwin Creek, Lombardi Creek	0.546 acre	Under Staff Review
County of Santa Barbara Public Works Dept. - Morgan Jones	11/26/2014	Goleta Beach County Park Bridge 51C-158 Replacement	To improve public safety and reliability for the Goleta Beach Park Bridge crossing the Goleta Slough.	Goleta	Santa Barbara	Goleta Slough	0.75 acre	Under Staff Review
Caltrans - Randy Lavack	12/4/2014	Davenport Sediment Removal	To remove accumulated sediment from the outlet channel.	Davenport	Santa Cruz	Pacific Ocean	0.025 acre	Under Staff Review

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

**401 Water Quality Certifications Issued September 27, 2014 – December 11, 2014**

Applicant	Date Certified	Project Title	Project Purpose	Location	Receiving Water	Includes LID Retention Feature <sup>2</sup>	Total Impact <sup>1</sup>
Gillie Orchards, LLC - Dan Emmett	10/27/2014	Gillie Ranch Bridge and Cate School Crossing Removal Project	To improve instream habitat conditions and better access across the creek for property owners.	Carpinteria	Gobernador Creek	No	0.11 acre
County of Santa Cruz - Russell Chen	10/29/14	East Zayante Road PM 6.22 Storm Damage Repair Project	To replace existing failing culvert and restore East Zayante Road to pre-disaster conditions.	Felton	Zayante Creek	No	0.02
Caltrans - Larry Bonner	10/29/14	Piedras Blancas Realignment Project	Realign approximately 2.8 miles of highway inland in order to provide a long-term solution to the adverse effects of shoreline erosion on the segment of Highway 1 from just north of the Piedras Blancas lighthouse to the Arroyo de la Cruz bridge.	Piedras Blancas	Arroyo de los Playanos, Arroyo del Corral, Arroyo del Oso, Pacific Ocean	Yes	9.41
Monterey County Resource Management Agency - Paul Greenway	11/26/2014	Emergency Repair of Moss Landing Road Flap Gates and Culverts	To repair the two damaged tidal gates that are a part of the culvert system connecting Moro Coho Slough with Moss Landing Harbor.	Moss Landing	Moss Landing Harbor, Elkhorn Slough	N/A	10 linear feet
City of San Luis Obispo - Dan Van Beveren	12/11/2014	Broad Street Bank Stabilization Project	To replace a failing gabion structure upstream of the inlet to the existing Broad Street triple barrel concrete culvert system.	San Luis Obispo	Old Garden Creek	N/A	0.094 acre
San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department - Dave Flynn	12/11/2014	Huasna Road Repair Project	To improve public safety and stabilize the bank of Tar Spring Creek.	Arroyo Grande	Tar Spring Creek	N/A	0.107 acre

<sup>[1]</sup> Total Impact includes both temporary and permanent impacts to waters.

<sup>[2]</sup> Low Impact Development (LID) Retention Features are stormwater management structures designed to retain stormwater on-site, such as bioretention cells, infiltration trenches, etc.

**Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Update**

The following information is to update the Board regarding implementation of Agricultural Order No. R3-2012-0011.

**ILRP Activities at a Glance**

- ILRP staff is assessing data received for the October 1, 2014 update and associated requirements. We are planning to share findings of our assessments with the Central Coast Water Board and public as informational items at upcoming Central Coast Water Board meetings.
- ILRP staff received several calls from concerned citizens during the rain events of early December 2014. The callers informed staff about discharges off agricultural lands that carried water and sediment to adjacent private property or public roads. In some cases, the discharge was likely exacerbated by the use of plastic on fields or hoop-houses, particularly in hilly areas. Staff is currently assessing our role in further tracking the potential for increased runoff from the use of plastic.

- At the time of this report preparation, ILRP staff is preparing to send Notice of Violations to growers who failed to submit information required on October 1, 2014. Our current assessment of compliance is centered on total nitrogen applied reporting and annual compliance form/eNOI updates.
- Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (Preservation Inc.) sent participants the 2015 invoice on December 19, 2014. The invoice was accompanied by a newsletter informing growers that the participation fees for 2015 are 33% less than 2014.

Items for Discretionary Review by the Regional Board

- The Agricultural Order identifies discretionary actions by the Executive Officer that are subject to review by the Regional Board. Staff updates the list quarterly and posts it at the [Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program](#) section of our website. We inform interested parties of the updated list through an email list serve called Lyris. We notified interested parties on December 12, 2014 of the updated list. The items for discretionary review are located at the following link to our website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/docs/items\\_disc\\_rvw/discretionaryreview\\_12122014.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/items_disc_rvw/discretionaryreview_12122014.pdf)

Discretionary Review items include the following:

- Provision 11 - Approval or denial of a third-party project or program.
  - No new project or program to report.
- Part 2 of the MRP – Approval or denial of a cooperative groundwater monitoring programs.
  - Staff has posted modifications of the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) workplan at the website link provided above.
  - See discussion related to CCGC below.
- Provision 18 – Approval of a farm to transfer to a lower tier, or requirement of a farm to transfer to a higher tier.
  - Staff has posted tier transfer requests at the website link provided above.

Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring - Central Coast Groundwater Coalition

- Staff continues to coordinate closely with the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) to implement cooperative groundwater monitoring program requirements. Staff met with CCGC for the regular cooperative groundwater monitoring program coordination meeting on Oct. 14, 2015, in Salinas and also met on Nov. 17, Dec. 9 and Dec. 19 to discuss CCGC contour maps of nitrate concentrations in groundwater.
- Agricultural Order R3-2012-0011 and State Board Order WQ 2013-0101 require growers to notify drinking water well users if groundwater monitoring results indicates that the well exceeds drinking water standards. At the Central Coast Water Board meetings on July 31, 2014 and Nov. 13, 2014, the Central Coast Water Board heard staff's evaluation and recommended path forward concerning CCGC's process for sharing drinking water notification information that will allow the Central Coast Water Board staff to verify such notification (Items 13 and 15, respectively). During the Nov. 13, 2014 Board meeting Item 15 discussion, Board Members provided general feedback and suggested modifications to staff's conclusion that CCGC must submit additional information in order to ensure that the Central Coast Water Board can effectively verify proper drinking water notification and conduct necessary follow-up.

As a result, the Executive Officer issued a letter to CCGC on Dec. 8, 2014, requiring the CCGC to provide a relational key to the Central Coast Water Board. The relational key must include the CCGC Member ranch-specific Global ID and the associated CCGC

Field Point Name (individual well identification) for all groundwater wells sampled by the CCGC in compliance with the Agricultural Order. CCGC submitted this information to the Central Coast Water Board on December 5, 2014.

Additionally, the Executive Officer's letter also required the CCGC to ensure that well users receive a written drinking water notification of drinking water exceedances (verbal notifications are not acceptable) and also required CCGC to provide a Final Exceedance Notification Follow-Up Report to the Central Coast Water Board that comprehensively identifies all wells sampled by the CCGC with exceedances of the drinking water standard, and must include the notification date, the manner of notification, and any follow-up action to ensure safe drinking water, etc. CCGC must also conduct annual follow-up to ensure that users continue to be properly notified of drinking water exceedances and to confirm any follow-up action to ensure safe drinking water.

Finally, the Executive Officer confirmed that CCGC must only submit copies of drinking water notification letters upon request, but CCGC representatives must bring copies of all drinking water notification letters to the quarterly CCGC/Water Board Coordination meetings for inspection by staff. The effect of these requirements is that the Regional Water Board will have sufficient information from CCGC regarding drinking water notifications such that the CCGC notification process is functionally equivalent to the process used by individual growers.

- At the Central Coast Water Board meetings on July 31, 2014 and Nov. 13, 2014, the Central Coast Water Board also reviewed a California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) request for discretionary review of the CCGC drinking water notification process. In response to CRLA's request for discretionary review, staff evaluated CRLA's specific concerns regarding written confirmation of notification and the identification of particular wells that have a nitrate exceedance. With the above-described modifications to the CCGC notification process, staff concluded that the CCGC drinking water notification process is functionally equivalent to the Central Coast Water Board's drinking water notification process, which should address CRLA's concern that the process be equivalent to the notification process for individual growers. The agenda, staff report, and minutes for these items are available at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2014/2014\\_agendas.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2014/2014_agendas.shtml)
- At the Jan. 29-30, 2015 Central Coast Water Board Meeting, Board Members will hear an information item to discuss the CCGC groundwater nitrate concentration contour maps and the second part of the discretionary review request by CRLA regarding how CCGC data is made available to the public. The agenda and staff report for this Board Meeting will be available at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2015/2015\\_agendas.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2015/2015_agendas.shtml)

### **Attachments**

1. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
2. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
3. Table 5 – Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers